

the back barred faintly, the wings and tail more distinctly, with darker brown; abdomen, crissum, anal region, and under tail-coverts soiled white, faintly flecked with brown on the flanks and under tail-coverts; remainder of underparts pale wood-brown; sides of head and neck flecked with grayish brown on a wood-brown ground: a poorly defined, inconspicuous, light superciliary stripe. Upper mandible dark*; lower mandible and feet pale flesh-color.* Length,* 4.75; extent,* 6.40; wing, 1.92; tail, 1.40; tarsus, .66; bill from nostril, .37. Sexes alike; type of ♀ No. 14133, collection of W. Brewster, same date, place, and collector as the ♂.

Habitat. Mountains near Oposura, Sonora, Mexico.

In general color and markings this species closely resembles *T. a. parkmani*, from which it is easily distinguishable, however, by its very much shorter tail and more tawny coloring beneath. It is evidently most nearly allied to *T. brunneicollis*. Among the eight specimens collected by Mr. Cahoon there is some variation with respect to the color of the underparts, but the deepest colored bird is much paler beneath than any specimen that I have seen of *T. brunneicollis*. One example is peculiar in having the bars on the tail confused and indistinct. Another has the superciliary stripe fairly well defined.

FIFTH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE fifth meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the Museum of the Boston Society of Natural History, Boston, Mass., Oct. 11-13, 1887, the President in the chair. The meeting was attended by seventeen Active Members and twelve Associate Members. The report of the Secretary stated that the membership of the Union consisted of 46 Active Members, 25 Foreign Members, 70 Corresponding Members, and 143 Associate Members. The Union had lost by death during the year one of its founders and Councillors, Prof. Spencer F. Baird, —a loss irreparable to the Union, and one deeply felt throughout the scientific world. The date of the meeting for this year

* From collector's notes based on the fresh specimen.

had been fixed with special reference to Professor Baird's convenience, as he had given assurance that if he were alive, he would attend the meeting if held in Boston the second week in October. Hence the sense of loss was forcibly impressed upon all. His death occurred, as is well known,* at Wood's Holl, Mass., August 19, 1887.

In the death of Dr. J. M. Wheaton,† at Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 28, 1887, the Union also lost another original member, and an ornithologist of prominence, and one held in great esteem by his fellow-members. Dr. Julius von Haast, Director of the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand, a Corresponding Member of the Union, died at Bonn, August 15, 1887. Dr. Haast was especially known for his admirable researches respecting the remarkable extinct birds of New Zealand.

Mr. Samuel Wells Willard, of West DePere, Wis., an Associate Member, died at Chatanooga, Tenn., May 24, 1887, at the age of 28. He was a young man of unusual promise, and will be long remembered for his excellent work on the migration and distribution of the birds of Wisconsin.

The Treasurer's report showed an indebtedness of about five hundred dollars, resulting mainly from the publication of the 'Code and Check-List.' 'The Auk,' during the past year, had proved self-sustaining.

The report from the Council included, as usual, nominations for membership, and also a draft of a new Constitution and By-Laws, and a report of its action in relation to the matter of incorporation, both the latter being subjects specially referred to the Council at the last meeting. Only one candidate was nominated for Active Membership, namely, Dr. F. W. Langdon of Cincinnati, Ohio. Owing to pending radical changes in the manner of selecting candidates for Active Membership, it was deemed undesirable by the Council to present other nominations at this meeting. Dr. Langdon's case presented peculiar claims, he having been previously elected at the first meeting of the Union, and prevented by unfortunate circumstances from availing himself of the privilege of membership. Twenty-eight nominations were reported for Associate Membership.

* See Auk, Vol. IV, p. 358.

† See Ibid., p. 174.

The Constitution and By-Laws presented had been drawn up by a Committee of the Council, appointed for the purpose last year,* and had been carefully revised by the Council, and were now recommended to the Union for adoption.

The matter of incorporation had been considered by the Council, and the President had been instructed to appoint a committee, of which he was to be chairman, to secure the incorporation of the Union under the laws of the State of New York.

Following the report from the Council came the election of members, resulting in the election of all of the candidates recommended by the Council. The new Constitution and By-Laws were then considered, and, with slight modifications, adopted as presented.†

An election of officers was then held, under the provisions of the new Constitution and By-Laws, which require seven Councillors instead of five. This, with the vacancy in the Council resulting from Professor Baird's death, required the election of three new members to the Council. The officers of the previous year were all re-elected, but Mr. Cory declined to serve another year as Treasurer, and Mr. William Dutcher was elected to the vacancy. The additional members of the Council are Messrs. Charles B. Cory, D. G. Elliot, and Leonhard Stejneger.

On suggestion of the President a committee (consisting of Dr. George Bird Grinnell, William Dutcher, and George B. Sennett) was appointed to co-operate with a committee of the New York Academy of Sciences in the work of soliciting subscriptions for the erection of a monument to John James Audubon in Trinity Church Cemetery, New York City. The tomb of America's great bird painter and ornithologist has sadly fallen into decay, and is very obscurely marked; it therefore seems especially fitting that the American Ornithologists' Union should take active measures to aid the movement already started to erect a proper monument to this distinguished pioneer in American ornithology.

* See Auk, Vol. IV, p. 57.

† As the new 'Constitution and By-Laws'—adopted finally under the title 'By-Laws and Rules,'—are published, together with the Membership Lists, with the present number of 'The Auk,' no special synopsis of them is required in the present connection.

Under the call for reports of Committees, the chairman of the Committee on the Distribution and Migration of North American Birds (Dr. C. Hart Merriam) made a verbal report, detailing the progress of the work, which is now, as is well known, carried on under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture, and largely by means of appropriations made by Congress. The work of gathering data was continued much as heretofore, through means of circulars and schedules, resulting in voluminous returns, which were being elaborated as rapidly as the extent and nature of the work permitted. Economic questions necessarily required much attention, and the gathering of food statistics entered largely into the work. Two large 'Bulletins' were passing through the press, one being a very elaborate report on the English Sparrow, and the other Messrs. Cooke and Widmann's report on the migration and distribution of birds in the Mississippi Valley. The report of the Committee was received as a report of progress, and the Committee was continued.

The Chairman of the Committee on Bird Protection (Mr. George B. Sennett) reported that the Committee was doing all in its power to disseminate information in relation to the subject, the chief obstacle to its work being the ignorance of the public on all matters relating to the utility of birds and the measures necessary for their protection. This ignorance was especially dense among farmers, who were intensely prejudiced against Hawks and Owls, and indifferent to the services rendered by these and many other useful species they were accustomed to regard as enemies and pests. The information the Committee had gathered respecting the food of Birds of Prey showed conclusively that, with two or three exceptions, these species were far more beneficial than harmful, many of them subsisting chiefly upon field mice and other farm pests. In this connection quite an extended account was given of the very excellent work of the Audubon Society. The report was accepted as a report of progress and the Committee continued.

The Committee on Avian Anatomy reported through its Chairman, Dr. Elliott Coues. The report was mainly eulogistic of the labors of his indefatigable colleague, Dr. Shufeldt, and an appeal to the Union for its aid in behalf of securing Dr. Shufeldt's transfer from a frontier post to one of the larger cities near the Atlantic seaboard, within reach of the libraries and museums so indispensable to him in his work.

This ended the first day's session. At the second day's session, under the call for miscellaneous business, the President referred to the Treasurer's statement of the indebtedness of the Union and of the great desirability of providing for its immediate payment. He called attention to the provision made in the By-Laws adopted the previous day for life membership, and stated that he thought he saw in this a speedy way of raising the needed funds. A life membership yielding \$100, five of them would suffice for present needs. Two members had already subscribed for life memberships, and another had been taken conditionally upon five being secured. At this point, Colonel N. S. Goss arose and asked to be recorded for a life membership, and was immediately followed by Dr. J. C. Merrill, who stated that he would also become a life member. This completed the five required to cancel the present indebtedness, the other life members being William Brewster, Charles B. Cory, and Dr. Coues. The President congratulated the Union on this gratifying turn in its financial affairs, which evidently gave great satisfaction to all present.

The remainder of the second day's session was devoted to the reading of scientific papers, this feature of the meeting being appropriately opened by an address on the life and scientific services of our late leader, Professor Spencer F. Baird, prepared by Mr. Robert Ridgway and read, in his absence, by the Secretary.* Other papers which followed are: 'Notes on *Gymnostrops montezumæ*,' by N. S. Goss; 'Cormorant Fishing in Japan,' by P. L. Jouey; 'The Fishing-habits of the White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*)', by Colonel Goss; 'Occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak in Iowa,' by C. R. Keyes (read by C. F. Batchelder); 'A List of the birds of Fulton County, Ky.,' by L. O. Pindar (read by the Secretary); 'A Bird Wave,' by Phillip Cox (read by M. Chamberlain); 'The Nocturnal Migration of Birds,' by Frank M. Chapman. The Secretary presented some observations made by Mr. William Lloyd, in the arid region of Western Texas, on the distance from water at which certain birds are found. Several of the papers elicited remarks from various members, and Mr. Chapman's paper was discussed at length by Messrs. Brewster, Chapman, Cory, Jeffries, Merriam, and others. At the third day's session

*The address is given in full as the first article of the present number of 'The Auk.'

a long and very interesting paper on 'The Birds of South Greenland', by A. Hagerup, was read by Mr. Chamberlain.

Resolutions of thanks were tendered to the Boston Society of Natural History for the use of its lecture-room as a place of meeting and for many other courtesies extended to the Union; to the Nuttall Ornithological Club for its hospitalities to the members of the A. O. U.; and to Senator Warner Miller for his successful efforts in Congress in behalf of the Division of Economic Ornithology of the Department of Agriculture.

The selection of the place for holding the next meeting, made during the second day, elicited a lively discussion, New York City and Washington being the rival points, the good-natured struggle being finally decided in favor of the latter, the Union voting to hold its next meeting in Washington, on the second Tuesday in November, 1888.

Mr. George L. Toppan, representing the Ridgway Ornithological Club of Chicago, made a few remarks in response to a call from the President, in which he expressed the hope that the Ridgway Club would have the pleasure of welcoming the A. O. U. to Chicago at a not very distant day.

The Fifth Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union adjourned at 12.30 P. M. of the third day to give members opportunity to make an excursion to Cambridge in the afternoon, for the purpose of examining the ornithological collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, and the private collection of Mr. William Brewster.

The meeting, all things considered, was one of the most satisfactory thus far held, and also one of the most important. The A. O. U. enters upon the fifth year of its existence free of debt, with its quarterly journal on an apparently sound financial basis, with an elaborate and well-considered system of 'By-laws and Rules' for its government, and with the prospect of soon having legal status as a corporate body. The social features of the Boston meeting, thanks to the foresight of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, will be long and pleasantly remembered.